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Gallot: Lawmakers eager to redistrict

Legislators are "geared up to git 'er done" when it comes to re-drawing new congressional district lines this spring even though the federal elections aren't until 2012, the leader of House redistricting efforts said last



Gallot

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week.

One of the state's seven congressional seats goes away as a result of the 2010 census numbers, meaning one of the Louisiana delegation members is going to lose his job. The political jockeying has already begun.

State Rep. Rick Gallot, who chairs the Louisiana House and Governmental Affairs Committee partially in charge of the redistricting effort, says some suggest lawmakers bypass the issue in March when the Louisiana Legislature meets in special session to redraw the lines of the districts from which officials are elected.

Because of Louisiana's history of racism, any plan to realign voting districts to the findings of the 2010 Census must be approved by the U.S. Department of Justice to ensure that minority representation is not diluted.

"I say that we should do it now and our plan is to do it. If somehow we don't get a plan passed and pre-cleared (by federal officials), that's another story," Gallot said.